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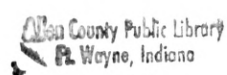
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Letters to the Secretary of
War, 1812

J

REFERENCE

- 1 - 12



June 1812

1139

No. 634.

Fort McArthur 40 Miles in

advance of Urbanna June 1812

Dr. Sir

I have the honor to inform you that we arrived here the evening before last and ~~should~~ should have proceeded on this day but for the immense raise, but indeed we should have gained nothing as Colo [indley] is cutting the road. There is a very good stockade fort here, with two block houses where will be left about 40 Men mostly invalids. There will be another block house built at Blanchard fork of Miami of the lake about 20 Miles in advance of this. It is said the fort of the rapids is not more than 50 or 60 miles from this. We are all in fine spirits and I hope shall acquit ourselves well & do honor to our nation in the event of hostilities.

Peace is certainly very desirable but any thing rather than depredation and I think with equal numbers we will give a good account of the Americans & let them know that Kentuckians are not savages as Col. Grant told Genl Hull. We are all in fine spirits and anxious to proceed as fast as possible. We think we shall get in to Detroit in 10 or 12 days. I shall continue as long with the Troops as there is any thing of importance to do if [illeg.] hostilities commence, I shall not leave it till we go into Winter Quarters I shall do my self the honor to write you from time to time: I find the road better this rout vastly than I expected, and I think these block Houses will be of [illeg.] importance in uniting this state & Michigan & in supplying Detroit & that Territory generally. I am much pleased with Genl. Hull. he appears to be anxious to get on to the defence of Detroit as fast as possible & to do all in his power to serve his Country I shall write you from time to time independant of business.

1139

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No. 1140.

I have the honor to be with grear respect & esteem your obed Sert in
hast

James Taylor

Hon. Wm. Eustis

June, 1812

11/83

No. 648.

Fort Dearborn

Honored Sir

It is with the deepest regret I address you upon the present Subject -- I am obliged to Solicit a change of situation -- My reasons I shall state in as few words as possible. I have first to represent the partial, arbitrary and unjust manner in which the Suttlng business is carried on at this Post. Such a system has been entered into, as ensures Articles of trade to the Officers at costs and charges, whereas the common Soldier is obliged to purchase his necessaries of life at an unreasonable price. Messrs. k Kenzie and Forsyth# have, by a Garrison Order, been declared Sutlers to this Garrison, (the latter, at least, a British subject, the former a very suspicious character, and both Indian traders, violating in common with their bretheren the Laws of the Country,) who, together with the Officers, pursue the System I have just stated. Against such a System I openly expressed an opinion; for this, as I cannot conceive any other real cause, I have not only been threatened by Lt. L. T. Helm, who is son-in-law to Mr. Kenzie, in the presence of his Father-in-law and others, but from him have been handed a challenge by Mr. Kenzie himself. From having some knowledge of Mr. Kengie's sinister character, and knowing too the undue ascendancy he has over Lt. Helm, I cannot but consider my present Situation as really unpleasant at least; as well as that of any other person who may not come, either from interest, or fear, into the unjust system of oppression I have mentioned.

If this system of injustice, together with the means to enforce it, were carried on openly, I could be the more guarded; but as I have reason to apprehend that the most underhanded measures are pursuing, I deem it the

11/83

1104
1104

more dangerous to its opponenets as it is the more clandestine.

I am otherwise satisfied with my present situation; yet I cannot but consider that American Officer's situation most object and mercenary indeed, who cannot, without danger to himself, oppose, by opinion at least, such measures as equziously[?] oppress the common Soldier -- measures which the least reamins of common justice would revolt at.

Such, honorable Sir, are the reasons, which necessiate me to call for an alteration in my situation at present, which I hope will, if practicable, be granted.

I could represent conduct of Mr. Kengie's no less deserving of countenance than that I have already touched upon, but it would be rather foreign to the intent of the present communication, though equally as unbecoming to a man who is receiving favours from Government, as it is to be filtching at the same time (I am sorry to say it, through its Officers) its soldiers of their hard-earned mites --

With sentiments of the highest respect, Permit me to subscribe myself
Your most Obedt. servt.

Isaac V. Van ~~Vonkess~~ *Vankeis*

S. Mate

The hon. W.th Eustis

Secty. at War

June 1, 1812

No. 23.

Vincennes June 1st 1812

Sir

I have had the honour to receive a commission as first Lieutenant
in a Company of rangers in the service of the United States, I
cheerfully accept the appointment & will endeavour to deserve it

I remain sir with due respect your obt Humble Servt

Jos. Brown

Honble Wm. Eustis

*June 1, 1812*No. 222-15.

Recruiting Rendezvous

Chillicothe 1st June 1812

Sir

In behalf of the Contractor to my recruiting party at this place (John Martin Esqr.) who has been contractor for three Months, & furnished good & wholesome provisions, & those very punctually, is placed in a very disagreeable Situation, has taken the Contract under Mr. White at Abingdon Virga. has forwarded his Abstracts regularly, for three Mo. & had never reced. from Mr. White one cent of money, nor one Sentence from him on the subject of furnishing troops, Mr. Martin's situation is a very unpleasant one as he has not cash to advance for provisions, if his situation can be bettered it will be a considerable relief to him, and to the troops here. I cannot account for Mr White not attending to him, he has never acknowledged the receipt of the provision Abstracts -- You will please Sir, inform me what should be done as soon as possible.

Very respectfully your Mot. Obt. Humble Servt.

Saml. Kercheval

Lieut 7th Infy. Commanding

Wm Eustis Esqr

Secretary of War

*June 1, 1812*No. 446.

Vincennes the 1st June 1812

Sir

I had the honour to recieve the Commission of Second Lieutenant in a Company of rangers in the service of the United States, I accept the appointment and will Exert myself to discharge the duties with propriety

I am Respectfully your Obedient Humbl. Servt

Samuel Little

Honble. William Eustis

*June 1, 1812*No. 491.

Indian Office 1 June 1812

Sir

Having more than exhausted the monies (\$27,000) received from the War Department for Indian annuities by purchases, or transfers of Goods from the Indian trade fund, as occasion and the present scarcity of some of the articles necessary required -- I have the honour to request that you will be pleased to direct a further sum on account of annuities to be paid over to me -- of from ten to fifteen thousand Dollars --

Beside the annuities for 181- -1811 to the great and little Osage nation paid as ordered by you at the factory at Fort Osage including charge of transportation of 3480. I have this spring packed and forwarded from this office goods as near as may be conformably with the lists from John Johnson sent me by you --

To Benjamin Franklin Stickney at Fort Wayne for the annuities of the

Miamies

Bel Rivers

Delewares and that part of the Puttawatimies

payable there.

To John Johnston Fiqua Town for the Shawanoese & for the presents for the same.

By the lists from Gov. Hull confirmed by you while he was here lately & to him at Detroit

For the Ottawas

Chippewas

Wyandots & others by treaty of Fort Industry -- that part of the Puttawatimies payable there -- and Indian presents distributable by him --

For the Wyandots deliverable at Sandusky according to the list of

Samuel Tupper of 21 Feby last confirmed by you.

Wm. Johnson

In virtue of the letter of J Neiby to you of 13th Decr. last sent me --
To him to the care of the Indian Factor at Chickasaw Bluffs -- under the
agreement of 1794 at Philadelphia to amount of \$3000.

The Chennubbe mingo (chief) to whom an annuity of \$100. during his
life was granted is said to be dead -- thus this has not been sent --

To Governor Harrison -- Vincennes for the Weas amount of	\$2150
for the Piankeshaws	999.96
for the Kickapoos	994.93

To Governor Edwards -- Kaskaskia

for the Kaskaskias to the	
amount of	\$600.

To Genl Clarke -- Saint Louis

for the Sacs to the amo. of	\$600.
for the Foxes	\$400.

And we have packed and ready to send off to be forwarded to the
Indian agent at Chicago

for that part of the Puttawatimies	
payable there --	

to be forwarded to Erastus Grainger at Buffalo for the

six nations to am. of	\$1560.
and Onondagos	600.

As we had no lists from Governor Harrison -- Gov. Edwards -- Genl. Clarke--
the Indian agent at Chicago or Mr. Grainger for the Indians under their
charge respectively -- with the assistance of Mr. John Johnston at Fort
Wayne who I retained here a few weeks by your permission at the cost of
his expences -- I had as you requested the article for those Indians
selected and packed as nearly as possible such as were found to have

been usually furnished them from the Invoices of Mr. George Ingles for the years 1810-1811 and by the judgement of Mr. Johnston; with Mr. Grainger who was then here (but whom I never saw) he told me he conversed and put up according to his wishes for the six nations and the Onondagoes both as to amount and quality --

I have now no papers relative to Indian annuities from you unacted on, other-- than the extract of a letter from Silas Dinsmoor dated Chaktaw agency 11th. Sept. 1811 in which he has given a list of goods for annuities to Chaktaws for \$4450. and amount in Cash of \$1400.

and an original paper signed Benjamin Hawkins and headed (estimate of stipend for the Creeks & Creek Chiefs for the year 1812"

as this paper is an original and relates to remittances in money to the whole amount except a few Tons of Iron and nails -- having taken a copy of it -- I thought it proper to return it to you, and accordingly now do so -- as the papers just mentioned from Mr. Dinsmoore and Mr. Hawkins were sent unaccompanied by any instructions from you -- be pleased Sir to let me have your orders as to the goods described in them -- if they shall be sent as stated in each -- to whom and to what place -- with the money part I presume I have nothing to do -- If however I can be in any way usefull to you in your arrangements on that part of the subject I pray you to command my services --

By the Law of the last session of Congress it is provided -- "that the Goods requisite for annuities to the Indian nations within the United States and the Territories thereof and for treaties with them and for presents to be made them at the seat of Government, or elsewhere shall henceforward be purchased and transmitted to the proper posts and places by the superintendent of Indian Trade upon orders from the Department

of War, and the accounts therefor shall be rendered to the War Department."

I am desirous of making up my accounts to the end of the quarter that will terminate with this month and of rendering them immediately thereafter. I have to beg Sir that you will be pleased to cause such forms to be furnished me as may be found proper on the occasion -- and to instruct me whether the whole supplies furnished from the office are to be included in one sett of accounts -- or whether the goods for presents -- and for treaties are to be accounted for seperately from those for annuities -- and if of each description seperate from the other --

With very great Respect I have the honour to be Sir your most obt. Servt.

J. Mason Supt. In. [John Mason]

The Honbl
William Eustis
Secretary of war

*June 2, 1812*No. 130.

Elvirade

Randolph County

Illinois Territory

June 2. 1812

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith a talk which I sent a few days past to the Kickapoos. So much depends on the proper management of these Indians and their confederates on the Illinois that I know it to be both an embarrassing and critical business and therefore I feel desirous to ~~be~~ exhibit to you not only what I have done but the manner of doing it --

I should not have made the demand, but that it appeared so evidently to be invited by the chiefs their silence might have been mistaken by them for an abandonment of any requisition for satisfaction. The whole of their professions may however be designed to lull us into a false security, whilst they are concentrating their forces and preparing for hostilities.

If they do not surrender the murderers I am convinced they will ~~be~~ immediately commence war. If they should comply with my demand, it will make an everlasting breach between them & the Prophets party and confirm them in a pacific disposition towards us --

If the Illinois indians should become hostile, they will overrun this territory -- they are able to do so -- for our population is very much dispersed & can not be drawn out to any one point of danger -- and in an [illegible] which I caused to be made some time since there were only about two thousand male inhabitants above the age of twenty one in the whole territory and since that time the population is considerably diminished.

Great alarm exists in the Ohio settlements in consequence of an extraordinary assemblage of the Southern Indians on the opposite side of that river. I have heard many particulars about those Indians & have recd some expresses from that quarter -- but the accounts I have heard are not sufficiently authenticated to be depended on. I have sent out some spies to make discoveries and shall probably be able by the next mail to transmit correct information on the subject --

Our danger does not seem to be in the least diminished -- and as yet no company of any kind has arrived here --

I have the honor to be Very respectfully Sir yr Mo Obd Servt

Ninian Edwards

The Honble

William M'ustis

War Dept.

Washington City

[Ed. Here follows the message to the Kickapoos.]

To the Chiefs & Warriors of the Kickapoos

My Children

When I saw you and the Putowatomies Chippewas and Ottowas at Cahokia, & heard your talk which was made by the great Gomo for you all, I was well pleased.

I hoped that the Tomohock would remain buried and that we should continue to light the Pipe of Peace

My Children

You spoke sensibly at Cahokia. You seemed to know that you had nothing to gain, and much to loose by joining the British in the war against us.

I thought you spoke with clean hearts and I smoked with you to shew you that I wished to take you to my heart as a good Father does his dutiful children.

My Children

For three years past I have been your Father -- You have had no cause of complaint against me -- I never wronged one of you -- I never wanted to buy your lands -- nor do I now wish it -- and nobody else in this Territory has a right to buy. therefore you need have no fear on this account --

My Children

It is my wish that the red People should keep their lands and pursue their game in peace to supply their wants and provide for their women and children

If any body does them any harm it is against my will. And whenever I can find out any such offenders they shall be punished for such offences, just as we would punish the red people if they were to do the same thing

My Children

I now wish to speak a few words that your Warrioes and young men, who were not at the council at Cahokia may hear them.

We are about to engage in a war with the British, I wish you to observe how different our conduct is from theirs -- We wish you to remain still and not to take any part in the war.

We do not want your aid because we know we can whip them without it -- They want you to fight their battles and ~~###not~~ care not what beco es of you afterwards --

My Children

You know we fought the British when we were as little children. We then conquered them and took all the United States away from them, and if

we fight them again we shall conquer them, take the Canadas away from them, and drive them out of America --

You will then have nobody to protect you. If you offend your great Father the President of the U. States, by joining in the war against us, and you will not get peace as soon as you will want it

My Children

The British would now load you with presents, if you would engage in the war, but those presents would cost you very dear, and last you but a little while --

The British would also promise you a great deal -- But there are some of you old enough to know that they will deceive you -- You can remember that they got you to engage in the last war and promised to stand by you -- but that then deceived you, and left you to shift for yourselves, and they will again make fools of you if they can

If they were your friends they would advise you as I do -- to lie still and take no part in the war. They tell you that they are able to conquer us, you can not believe them, For if they thought so, they would not be so anxious to get you to help them

My Children

I will again tell you plainly what will be the consequence, if you join in the war against us. We shall take the Canadas, and prevent any British traders or English goods from going among you

We shall withdraw all our own traders -- You will then have nobody to supply you with blanketts, [illeg. strouds?], ammunition or other things -- We shall also take your country and build Garrisons to maintain it. And we must carry on a severe war against you -- What will you then do -- When you have no trade, and can hunt no where in safety

My Children

Some of your young men are foolish and will not believe these things --

But many of you brave Chiefs, and old Warriors, have sense enough to know that they will come to pass -- Some of you have travelled through your great Father's dominions; you have seen his great towns and cities and you know he can spare one hundred men when the whole of the red people together can spare one -- And he has great numbers of Kentuckians who can live in the woods as well and fight as well as any Indians

I tell you these things because I am your friend and do not wish you to bring such evils upon yourselves & yr. helpless women & Children -- If you will not now listen to my words -- You will one day or other be sorry for it.

You may do us some injury, but you will bring total ruin upon yourselves --

My Children

The British have hired the Shawnee Prophet to tell you lies, to induce you to raise the Tomohock against your white brethren -- before he began to work with a bad heart you were all happy -- but he has distracted the red skins and their happiness is gone

Those who ~~listened~~ listened to him have gained no things but misery -- Many were wounded at Tippicanoe and others lost their lives, and left their friends to mourn over their folly

My Children

I am satisfied many of you had too much sense to listen to all the Prophets lies and hate him in your hearts because he deceived your friends, and has brought trouble upon you all.

But some of your young men have listened to him and other bad birds that have been flying among you and they have done us injuries which we cannot forgive

My Children

You know how much the Prophet promised those he made fools of last year -- and you know he was defeated with great loss -- If I had told you these things before he and many of you would not have believed me I now tell you that the reason why he and his party have not been destroyed is, that your Great father wished for peace and did not wish to destroy the red skins if he could avoid it

But you will see that the Prophet will be defeated again with greater destruction than before -- I expect you will hear of an army at Michigan, and about Chicago very shortly -- These will prevent his retreat, While an army from Vincennes and from this quarter will probably attack them on the Wabash. And other troops may go up the Mississippi who can cut off the Winnebagoes, and others who may retreat there -- I give you my opinion that unless the Prophet makes peace very soon all those things will happen.

You must know that if it were possible for him to defeat one army, your Great father could soon have another ten times as strong to oppose to him

My Children

Now listen to my advice. If you will not believe the things I tell you -- I advise you to wait to see if they will happen. Do not join either the British or the Shawnee Prophet until you see what success they have. let them try the war themselves first before you run any risque and you will then be convinced that what I say is true and you will then be safe

My Children

We do not wish to go to war with you but we are men and cannot consent that our land shall be stained with the blood of our innocent brethren without

Revenge -- Peace upon such terms would be worse than war

My Children

Some of your young men lately killed a family on the Mississippi, by your treaty you are bound to deliver up all such offenders -- and I now demand those murderers of you -- I will receive them at Cahokia and I will pay the expense of delivering them there

My Children

You say you wish for peace if so you must comply with your treaty -- The Indians at Vincennes told Governor Harrison that they wished for peace, and they soon afterwards went to murdering

You must therefore comply with your treaty or I cannot believe you sincere

My Children

All I ask is that you shall do justice, if you will do this I shall know that you are friends, and peace will then gladden the heart of your great father, and the hearts of all your white brethren for we have no wish to injure any of you

My Children

I have tried to find out those who fired on you^{ss} and have found out one man who will be punished as a red skin would be for the same offence

I gave you your young men who had been taken prisoners, and you ought to be convinced that I will do you justice which is all I ask of you

My Children

You had better send for all your young men who are with the Prophet, and let them hear my words you must try to govern your young men, otherwise all may suffer for the bad conduct of a few which I do not wish

My Children

I hope to hear from you very soon because I wish to know whether
I am to consider you friends or foes

Winian Edwards

*June 2, 1812*No. 493.

Dayton June 2d 1812

Sir

Doctr Abraham Edwards who has been a pointed a Captain in the Army of 25000 -- I have appointed Surgeon in the Army of Ohio -- He is now on Duty with the Army. I hope he may be permitted for the present to continue in it -- as he will in that situation render the U S more service than in recruiting --

respectfully yr. Obt St

R ~~J^W~~ Meigs

Gov Ohio

Hon Wm. Eustis

Secy at War

Meigs

*June 2, 1812*No. 541.

Picqua June 2d. 1812

Honorable William Eustis Secretary at War.

Sir,

I have received information from Colo William Russell of the 7th Regiment, that it is probable We should be marched to the Indiana Territory, to Join the rangers and other Comps -- His Excellency Governor Meigs Ordered us first to Lorimies, and agreeably to that order, and the Law for raising those Companies we have Made a Contract to be supplied at a Certain Stipulated price -- and if we Were to march to any of the Territorys I cannot know of any way that we Could furnish, Ourselves with provisions Without being verry much to the Disadvantage of our Company unless we should be allowed for the transportation -- &c &c &c

I am very willing to obey any order that shall be given -- and of Choise would Wish to go into -- that part of the Contrey if men Could be furnished -- at a fair price -- Any Communication you may think proper to Send on this Subject you will Direct to Washington Picqua

I Am Sir Yours Respectfully

Wm Perry Capt.

2d Company ~~U.S.~~ R

Honorable William Eustis
Secretary at War

NNNN

200

*June 2, 1812*No. 678.

Hbbs. William Eustis

Secretary of the U. States War Department --

Sir,

The Acting-Governor and Superintendant of Indian Affairs of this Territory being engaged in the execution of measures for the defence of the country, has directed me to transmit the enclosed documents, being my original report to him: As respects the expences attending the Council, they were paid on my private funds, I therefore flatter myself they will immediately be reimbursed.

I avail myself of this opportunity to state that since the first day of September 1806, I have occasionally rendered my services as Secretary to the Indian Department, and that on the 16th. Decr. 1809 I was charged by Governor Hull and have ever since been charged with the details of the execution of an act of Congress entitled "An act to regulate trade and intercourse with the indian tribes, and to preserve peace on the frontiers," and have received no compensation therefor, and if required I can exhibit certificates from Governor Hull and the acting-Governor to this effect; I presume sir, to claim at your hands a reasonable compensation for these services and have the honour to salute you with respect.

Y.O.H.S.

Jos: Watson

Indian Department T. M.

Detroit 2d. June 1812.

[To Eustis]

200

*June 3, 1812*No. 252.

Staunton, 3d June 1812.

Sir

I arrived with the Army, at this place, yesterday. The waters of the Miami are now so low, that it is impossible for the Boats to ascend with the provisions and stores, to Lorimier. They have stopped six miles above this. I have consulted this morning, with the commanding officers of regiments, and they are clearly of the opinion, that we shall arrive at the foot of the rapids, several days sooner; by taking the rout of Urbanna, than the one originally contemplated. Another consideration has influenced me on the subject: In the event of war with England, we must depend on the state of Ohio, for supplies for this Army, the rout we have now adopted, is the one made use of at present, for the transportation of provisions to Detroit, and in marching thro', the army will repair the road. It is the safest, nearest, and most contiguous to the productive part of the state.

I have heard nothing from A. Porter, Esqr. the Contractor, had I not contracted with Platt and Co, the army would have been without provisions --

I am happy to inform you, that I have received reports, already, from five or six Indian^s Villages, (since my speech was communicated.) more favourable than I had reason to expect. The chiefs are now on their way to visit me, and the Frontiers have already become tranquil) I have not heard, but presume, the 4th Regt. and Hughes' Company have arrived at Cincinnati -- this unfortunate delay has been attended with one advantage: The discipline of Army -- I am happy as yet in my command -- the most perfect harmony prevails, and the army is improving in discipline --

I am very respectfully Your Obt. Servt.

[To Eustis]

" Hull

Hull

June 4, 1812

No. 22.

To his Excellency James Madison President of the United States
Sir

Permit us to express the pleasure we fell in being authorized by a vote of the "Pittsruagh Blues" (which we have the honour to command) to tender their services through you to the United States, under the act authorizing your Excellency to accept of the services of Fifty Thousand Volunteers.

The Blues are at this time composed of Fifty young men anxious to serve their Country in the anticipated contest, and we hope, should your Excellency think proper to employ them, that they will be unremitting in their attention & exertions to promote the welfare of our common Country

With sentiments of the highest esteem We remain Your Excellency's
Humble Servts.

Ja. R. Butler Captn.

[~~Other~~ Other signatures illegible with
the exception of James Irwin Ensign.]

Pittsburgh June 4, 1812

*June 4, 1812*No. 267.

Fort Mason June 4th 1812

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 15th. came duly to hand, by the Express, the contents of which I have duly examined. I feel much gratified, to find that your opinion corresponds with that of Capt. Boone and myself, with respect to the importance of the establishment of Fort Mason, and also the good effect that the movements of your rangers have had -- we are now well convinced; that had not the steps been taken that were, by your Excellency, & Colo. Wissell in the direction of the troops at this post, that the frontiers on the Missouri and Mississippi, would have been cut off, and perhaps St Louis, and its vicinity, at this day the frontier. This I do not give as an entire opinion of my own, but it is the opinion of all the distress'd Frontiers on the Missouri and Mississippi -- so far as we have had any conversation with them -- and what enforces this opinion more strongly on my mind, is the Language of the Indians themselves -- some few days since, I had an interview with two chiefs, one of the Sacks and one of the Fox nation, who observed, that the Indians on the Mississippi, say that the soldiers about this Post, are as thick as the trees in the woods as they express it.

This opinion taken up by those savages no doubt, was from seeing the different movements of the Rangers, and the moving of this detachment, backwards and forwards on the Mississippi, which no doubt induced them to believe, that they were different detachments moving. There is no doubt but those small parties of Indians which our spies so frequently struck the trail of, were the spies of some large party, who were sent in advance, to see what our movements were. They have

no doubt discover'd, that we are much on the alert, which has perhaps changed their course to some other frontier.

There is another reason in my mind of the good effect, that the establishment of this Post, and the movements of the rangers has had; we find that the great intercourse which the Illinois Indians had heretofore to the Mississippi & Missouri is now entirely cut off -- and their course changed to some other quarter.

It is well known that this is their grand crossing place, and also their great hunting ground. Some few days since I received information of two parties of ~~many~~ Indians being about this Fort, some small distance, which information can be relied on. This information has induced me, to double my picketts arround the Fort, and to make myself as secure as possible, as my detachment is but small. I am confident that at this time -- three hunared Indians cannot soil[?] me -- and I assure you Sir, that I should glory, in seeing that number attack us at this time.

I am sir respectfully your obt. Servt.

Sign'd) John Campbell

[To Gov. Howard]

*June 4, 1812*No. 325.

Fort Payette

June 4th 1812.

Sir --

I have ship'd two thousand stands of arms to Newport from their deposit at this place, in obedience to your order of the 25th ulto. The order of the 16th of April will be executed as soon as the arms & accoutrements are receiv'd from Philadelphia and Harper's ferry --

I have the honor to be your Most obedient Servt.

H Johnson

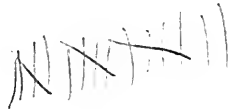
[illeg.] A.D. Qr. Master

The Honorable

William Eustis Esquire

Secretary of War

Washington City



*June 5, 1812*No. 676.

Head Quarters Lexington June 5th 1812

Sir

I had the honor to receive your orders of the 14th Ult in due time, and bring divisions promptly to reinforce Governor Harrison (if he required) with such disposable troops as might be under my controul in this state, (at least with one complete company) I dispatched a messenger to New Port, for clothing, arms, and camp~~##~~ equipage.

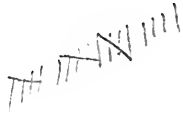
I am informed by the Millitary Store Keeper that he has none in his charge, except a few parcels ordered for particular corps; and that if he had more, he could not deliver them on my order; being instructed to issue Such articles, on the advice of the Secretary of war alone.

I have since received Invoices of 480 Suits of clothes, Shiped at Pittsburgh on the 27th. of last month; and the Ohio being in good order, they may be daily expected to arrive at this place. As yet I have received no information concerning arms; they are certainly essential for the discipline of the Recruits, and will be all important, should Govr. Harrison require a reinforcement.

I have the honor to be with high respect yr. obt. Sert.

J. Winchester B. Genl

united States army



1135

No. 631.

New Port Ky

June 6th 1812

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 26th ulto relative to the purchase of fifteen or twenty tons of lead. I have procured a little upwards of three Tons this day, which is all that I can procure at this place at present, but shall write this day to Louisville where I am informed there is plenty. 2500 of this lead I got at \$8 p wo & the balance I had to give nine dollars for. Had I been authorized about two weeks ago I could have procured plenty at \$8 & perhaps less as a Keel boat ascended the river loaded with that article.

Should boats be wanted to descend the river there are at this place four good flat bottomed and two good Keel boats -- It is possible Capt. Hughes may take one of the flats to take down some Horses, if Majr. Morrision had not provided Transportation for them from Louisville, but if he has been instructed he has no doubt done so.

The detachment under Capt Hughes to this place will leave this to join Genl Hull on Thursday the 10th inst. I am now preparing to pay them and shall furnish them with transportation to Urbanna in Ohio. I shall leave this for Head Quarters on the 9th and shall continue on to Detroit with the Troops.

In my absence my business will be attended to by my Nephew Mr. James F. Eubank/ who is a sober descent young man & will be punctual to any orders ya may do me the honor to transmit to me relative to public business. He is well acquainted with my Agency and I shall hold myself accountable for his conduct in discharge of my duties.

Should it be necessary for him to draw bills on your department in my absence he will sign himself for me, which shall be as binding on me as if drawn by my self

I am now purchasing about Sixty pack Horses for Transportation under Genl Hulls command

I have the honor to be with great respect sir your obed servt.

James Taylor

Hon Wm. Eustis

Secy of War

June 6, 1812

1137

No. 632.

Cincinnati Ohio

June 12th 1812

Sir

I have the honor to inform you, that I have this day drawn on you for the sum of Twenty thousand dollars in favor of O.M. Spencer Cashr of the M E Company on account of Transportation Camp Equipage &c. for the Ohio Troops at ten days sight, for which sum I am accountable to the acct. of the Department of War.

I am just about leaving this for Head Quarters, having just sent off the last supplies to Urbanna except some that will be forwarded by about Fifty pack Horses I have purchased by Genl Hulls directions.

I am fearful the expenditures will appear great, but you may rest assured that a strict eye to oeconomy shall be had, as far as I am left to judge, and the same spirit appears to be the object of the Commander in Chief: But ti must be recollected that to supply an army of the size of the one under Genl Hulls Command & which at the outset had not the smallest equipment must take a Considerable sum, and then to Transport it a Considerable sum more.

Genl. Hull was compeled to engage to Transport the provisions for the army (I understand) from the frontier (phaps from Urbanna) this will add enormously to our Transportation acct. The Contractors spoke of wanting about Fifty waggons for this purpose, when I left Dayton

I have the honor to be With great respect sir Your obedt Servt

James Taylor

The Hon. Wm. Eustis

Secy of War

*June 7, 1812*No. 494.

Dayton June 7th 1812

Sir

This day the Detachment United States Troops under my command arrived at this place after a most fatiguing march owing to the incessant rains and extreme warm Weather

My Aggregate has been lessened ~~six~~ four by Death and two by Desertion, I have left at Newport Capt N. J. Adams, and thirty five privates many of whom I expect will join me in a few Weeks -- Those of the Wounded unfit for duty I have furloughed to go to New England the sick now with me are twenty five and the number daily increase -- I found no orders in the Post Office at this From the War Department But have received B. G. Hull's orders to proceed on to Urbana to join the Main Army Destined for Detroit --

I have the honor to be your obedient and very humble servant

James Miller Lt Col

5th Infy

Hon. Wm. Eustis Esqr.

Secretary of War

June 8, 1812

No. 132.

(A Copy)

Pioria 8th. June 1812

I have the honor to acquaint you that I arrived here on the 6th. Inst and immediately sent for the Kickapoos, and also to acquaint Gomo that I had a letter for him from you. They all arrived there yesterday, and I explained your letter to the Kickapoos, thro your Interpreter -ette

but I find that the Kickapoos are much changed since I left this place to go down to St. Louis as you will see by the evasive answer they now send you by Nette.

About a fortnight ago a number of Miamies have come to this country from an Island of Woods in prairies commonly called White or Ignwood Island, distant from the old Kickapoo towns 25 or 30 miles -- they consist of twenty odd lodges and can furnish at least from 120 to 150 warriors. these Miamies are only about the half of the whole that were at the above mentioned Island -- The other half is gone to the S. Prophet and will make his number greater and I am of opinion that those Miamies that are gone to the prophet from Ignwood Island have been the Indians who done the mischief on drift wood creek and in the Vicinity of Vincennes. I am sure that the number of Indians now at the end of this lake consisting of Autowatomies, Kickapoos, Miamies and Ottoways must exceed six hundred warriors and should they be inclined for war, they can in the couse of eight or ten days draw from Miankakee river, from the upper parts of this river, from Fox[?] river, and from Rocke river at least 600 warriors more which would make an Indian army of at least 1200 warriors, exclusive of the prophets band which is now considerable, and I am informed that they are augmenting

daily, as I can assure you that the Indians in this country, and the Mississippi have almost weekly intelligence from the S. Prophets town and no doubt but the prophet has the same intelligence from Detroit country, from this line or net of conveying intelligence, the Indians on the Mississippi have news conveyed to them from Detroit Country in the space of 15 or 16 days.

Gene informed me (after I had explained your letter to him* that the time was not come to fulfill his promise, and that it was requisit to have a general council with the whole of the Putowatomies nation, to come to some determination, that the Indians could not git arms nor ammunition at the Factory at Chicago — that he did not know what the Indians would do if the traders were withdrawn from among the Indians the insuring fall -- that there must be a change among the Indians, otherwise he would abandon them and live and die among the white people of this place

I observed to him the number of militia that had arrived at Detroit and the great number of regulars, on their way if not arrived at Detroit That the communication between the two countries was stopped. That the whole of Detroit river from one end to the other was lined with troops to stop the communication of the Indians to and from the British Garrison of Malden. That the Indians could not expect any succours from that quarter he said that he knew all that I told him was true and that the Main Poc was at the B.G. of Malden and could not get across the river to return home.

Some few of the Indians may have a little gunpowder yet left, but may suppose if they are not supplied shortly they will be much in want of that article in the course of a few weeks, as they are given to understand by the traders from Makinac that British goods will be

allowed to enter the west of Alimac and that all the Indians will get their necessary supplies for the ensuing season. The Indians whole dependence is on those traders, as they give the Indians extensive credits in autumn at very high prices, and if an Indian pays half of his credit the trader will be sufficiently paid for his powder so that he may give on credit, as it is generally small articles such as cutlery and ammunition that is given out on credit to commence their hunt in the fall of the year.

Gono is perfectly aware of the consequences should the passage of goods be stopped at Chicago and the mouth of this river -- And I can assure you that is the only plan that can be adopted should the Indians of this country not fulfill their promise or be inclined to be hostile to the U. States.

I was informed yesterday that the whole body of Indians now in the vicinity of this place have been counselling for some time past, and no person can find out what they are about -- I shall in a day or two send a person up to the Village to get all information I can and should it be of consequence I shall transmit it to you by express, as it would be needless to send any person up to the Village until all is over and to find out their decision.

The whole body of the Indians are now busy planting their corn, but for the want of clear land their fields will be rather small, so you see by this they are forced to remain this season in this part of the country -- I have agreed with Mr. La Clair to make the tour you wish him to take, as he could not go alone, he takes his son with him and one of his own horses for his son to ride and I have agreed to give him two dollars per day and should the Indians steal his horse during the tour Govt is to replace

his horse by giving him another and also to be found some provisions.

It appears that the Indians have scouts out continually or fear that the Americans should take them by surprise -- I shall watch the motions of the Indians, and should any thing happen worth communicating I shall acquaint you by express.

I herewith enclose you a rough sketch of the country about Melwaken and heads of Rocky River from which I hope you can form some idea of that part of the country.

I am very respectfully Your Excellency's Most Obedt and Very humble St

Thomas Forsyth

To his Excellency

Govr. Edwards

Kaskaskia

[Ed. no sketch attached]

June 8, 1812

No. 255.

Copy of

An agreement, entered into, between William Hull, sole commissioner for treating with any, or all the Indian Nations residing northwest of the River Ohio and the Chi fs whose names are hereunto Subscribed.

We the undersigned, Chiefs of the Wyandots, Shawanese, and Mingoes in consideration of the friendly relation existing between our respective nations, and the United States, and to manifest the desire we feel, that such relations should continue, do hereby consent and agree, so far as our nations are interested therein -- that our great Father the President of the United States, shall be at Liberty, whenever he may deem it necessary, to open a road in the nearest and most convenient rout, from the northern boundary of Champaign County, on the Greenville Treaty line, to the foot of the Rapids of the Miami of the Lake, to be used by our great father's Children, so long as the conduct themselves peaceable.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby expressly declared by the parties hereunto, that no settlements shall be made upon said road -- and that this grant shall convey no other right, than that of Passing and repassing -- And provided also, that the United States may erect Block Houses along the said road, to afford to the said Nations, security and protection against their Enemies --

Dated in Camp near Urbanna this 8th day of June 1812

Signed -- ~~Wm. Hull~~ Wm. Hull.

Tarne, or Crane [followed by their marks]

Schutuota

Black Hoof

Beatanaka

Wolf

Charata

Captn Lewis

Wahiata

Witness

Duncan McArthur

James Findlay

Lewis Cass

Jason R Curtis

W. Reynolds

Robt. Armstrong, Interpreter for the Wiandots

James Logan Interpreter for the Shawnese

[these names for]

*June 8, 1812*No. 268.

Peorias 8th. June 1812

Father,

I wrote you today and have nothing bad to say: We wish to do good and not to do bad: We have no intention to do bad as we have done heretofore. We well remember that we promised each other at the treaty of Greenville to deliver up aall murderers. You ask us, in your letter to do a thing that we have already done. We some few years ago went to St. Louis to deliver up murderers, and lost one of our chiefs at that place. He was killed by one of your young men and you did not deliver up the murderer, or punish him yourself. You ask us to do justice. You did not do us that justice you ought to have done. How can you suppose that the red skins can have sense when you, the White skins have none, by not giving us satisfaction for the death of our chief. Before that period your young men killed another of our chiefs near the Kaskaskias River when a hunting. I tell you these things to make you acquainted with things that happened before you came to this country. At another time the Americans killed a number of Miami's near Cahokia. Among the killed was a chief of the Kickapoos, and we never thought hard of all this -- And we always wished and now wish to live in peace with the White People. At another time, at a place called Florsant[?], on the Missouri the white people killed another of our people. We never complained. At another time at St. Charles, the French people killed tow of our people. Still we remained quiet and always listened to your advice. Some of our young men wanted revenge, but the chiefs and warriors would not allow them to do mischief hoping you would, one day do us justice. After all this had happened, some of our young men killed some of your people on or near the Missouri. You demanded them and they were given up to General Wilkinson at St Louis and was hung. One of our

chiefs that took the Murderers to St Louis got in liquor and was killed by some of your people. You hung our people that was then delivered and you did not deliver up to us the young man who killed our chief. We the chiefs and warriors did not think hard at all of this; but some of our young men did. What occasions all the bad affairs between us and the Americans, it is the army that went last fall against the Shawanoe Prophet. Many of our people was killed, many lost friends; I myself lost a brother there, but for my part I dont think any thing about the loss of my brother: But the young men of our nation is not of my way a thinking. Listen well to all my words -- Forget all that has passed since the battle on the Wabash; Let the hatchet be buried deep; think with us it is better to have peace than war, We pay attention to your talk -- And I hope you will pay attention to this our talk. You wish us to live in peace, to maintain and feed our women and children: But how can we feed our women and children. We cannot go any distance from home to hunt, without falling in with your young men who are continually going and coming through our hunting country -- How can we hunt?

I hope I have not said any thing but what is just and I hope you will never hear that the Kickapoos will do any thing in future that is bad. This is the reason that I now ask you to say to bury the hatchet, for I am sure that the Kickapoos will never do you any injury for this time to come. We observe with fear that the Great Spirit, the Master of all is not contented with us. He sees that we do bad things, and has given signs of his anger by making the Earth tremble.

(Signed) Pemoratome

Chief Kickapoos.

His Excellency

Governor Edwards

Kaskaskias

June 9, 1812

No. 269.

Copy of a letter from Thomas Forsyth to Governor Howard --

Peorias 9th June, 1812

May it please your Excellency,

I re'd. Govr. Edwards's talk to the Kickapoos making a demand of the murderers of Mr. O'Neil's family, but find them greatly changed during my absence. The Kicapoos are not the same people. The assume a different tone, to what they did before I left this to go down to St. Louis, as you will see by their answer to Govr. Edwards.

The Whole body of Indians in this country appears to be united, and a few days ago a number of Miamies are come to settle among the Kickepoos of this country. They consist of from 120 to 150 men and should suppose that the whole body of Indians now in the vicinity of this place exceeds 600 warriors, exclusive of those who reside in the upper parts of this river and Fox R., and should they be inclined for war they could collect an army in 10 or 12 days of at least 1,200 warriors. They still have a little powder among them, but I think that in the course of two months they will be much in want of that article, particularly as there is none for sale at this place, and the Factory at Chicago will not sell any powder or arms to Indians: But should the traders from Mackinac be able to enter their goods from Canada, the supplies will be great, particularly in ammunition.

I am informed that the Prophet's party is increasing daily, and it is said that the Indians in this country ~~####~~ have news from the Prophets town every week, and it is transmitted to the Sac Villages on the Mississippi regularly, and I have no doubt that the Prophet has regular information from the British. Gomo says that the main Poc is still at the B. G. of Malden, and that he cannot get across the river to return home, as the whole coast is lined with the American troops.

|||||

God keep him there and that he may never return from that Country. On my arrival here, I wished to make Como acquainted that no Indian could cross Detroit R^r to go to the British; but I found that he knew as much, if not more from that country than I did. I have wrote to Gov Edwards fully on the subject of furnishing the Indians with arms and ammunition: for you may rely that if such a great number of Indians that now is in this country can get arms and ammunition sufficient, they could carry on a very destructive war on the settlements in this and the L territory. I have again to say that I am afraid that Govr. Harrison has not the proper information from the Porphet's town, as his party must be great at present.

Mr. Le Claire a person I have employed to make a tour to the Winnebago Villages will leave this in a day or two and perhaps be 20 or 25 days in his journey. On his return I will give you all the news that he may collect.

I remain Your Excellency's most obedt Servt.

Signed Thomas Forsyth

His Excellency
Governor Howard
St. Louis.

*June 9, 1812*No. 254.

Urbanna 9th June 1812.

Sir,

On the 7th inst. the Army arrived at this place -- Captain Manary's Company of Rangers, have built a Block house, twenty miles forward on our rout to the foot of the Rapids -- I have pushed forward one hundred and fifty men to repair the Road -- and the whole army will march tomorrow morning.

I have appointed Genl. James Taylor to perform the duties of Quarter Master Genl. to this Army. Lieutt. Thomas Jessup of the 7th. Regt. (by the consent of Coll. Russell) the Brigade Major -- Doctr. Edwards, who is the Surgeon of Coll. Findlay's Regt., to take the charge of the Medical Department -- and Col. Robert Wallace, (an Aid De Camp to Govr. Meigs, -- an additional Aid de Camp -- In the Command of a seperate Army, situated as this is, it is impossible for one Aid de Camp to perform all the duties Coll. Wallace, is a young Gentleman, of excellent character and Talents, -- and this situation for him, was the only request which Governor Meigs made -- I know of no law, giving him compensation, -- but hope some mode will be devised for the purpose. The compensation of Genl. Taylor, and Doctr. Edwards -- is likewise to be determined- I expect the 4th Regt. will join the army this day. It is now near three weeks since Capt. Hughes's Company left Pittsburg, and I have no account of their arrival at Cincinnati. I shall not wait a moment for them. The more information I obtain, the better I am satisfied, that the route I am now about to take, on every account is to be preferred. It will be only eight miles from Manary's Blockhouse, to the foot of the Rapids; where I shall establish a Post. From this Block house to the foot of the Rapids, is an Indian Country -- and we have, by no former Treaties, any right of way, in this direction -- Yesterday I held a

Council with all the principal Chiefs, who reside in the Country -- in the center of my encampment -- twelve principal Chiefs were present. Inclosed is an agreement, containing their consent, that the Army should march through -- It was unanimous. Three Block houses, now between Manarys and the Foot of the Rapids, will establish a Cordon of Posts on the road, within twenty miles of each other. This road approaches the richest and most productive part of the state, of Ohio, for Beef, Pork, flour &c and in the event of war with England it will be indispensicly necessary.

It is my Calculation to arrived at Detroit by the first of July. The Spirit and Animation, the regularity and Order -- and indeed the discipline and Military appearance of this army are an honor to our Country. Yesterday a review took place -- and we were honored with the Company of Governor Meigs and all the Indian Chiefs -- Forty Days from this Time, I have appointed a general Indian Council at Brownstown. I expect Tecumseth and the other Chiefs from the Wabash, and the Delawares from White River. I hope I shall be able to conquer the Indians by Justice and humanity -- If this cannot be done, I am prepared for the other alternative.

I have hardly been in an house since I took the field, I yet enjoy good health and the most perfect harmony prevails in the Army.

I am very respectfully Your Most Obt Servt

W Hull

Hon. Wm. Eustis

Secty of the Dept. of War --

June 10, 1814

No. 222-18.

Sir

In compliance with your request we give you the following outlines of a plan for collecting the indians for the purpose of ascertaining their views and informing them of the objects of the Government of the US The place most convenient under all the circumstances is Fort Wayne. The time of meeting the 1st of Augt between now and then there is 50 days. Allow 15 days from tomorrow which is mail day as the average for your letters to reach the agents 10 further to give notice for the chiefs 10 for the indians councils 5 to prepare to start and ten to travel to the place of meeting making the 50 days As the superintendant for indian affairs has no doubt the [illeg.] th local situation and the agencies near the several tribes between the Mississippi and Ohio we presume the information to be obtained from him will much better enable you to assign to the different agents what tribes they shall notify than any thing we could give you from memory. Without taking notice of the subdivisions of the Nations (for to some of these -- there are several tribes) they will not exceed 12 in number ~~###~~ We mean to ~~enclude~~ such as under all the circumstances could be collected at Fort wayne -- allowing 5 chiefs and as many young men from each there would be 120. It is highly probable 150 or perhaps more might attend besides their women and children -- say therefore that supplies and present should be provided for 250 supposing they continued together -- 15 days we should not calculate on so many but it will be better to make ample provision ~~#####~~ Should however the invitation be a general one which in many respects would be best and the Indians should think proper to accept it We should imagine that instead of 250 there would be 2500 to provide for -- A General invitation would certainly give most satisfaction and produce a more lasting effect The most positive instructions should be given to the agents who ought to send runners into the tribes forthwith

after receiving their orders It is only necessary to remark that the persons to be appointed to meet the Indians should be very firm men & possess the confidence of the Government and the Indians if possible We will converse with you again on this subject if you desire it

In haste we are very Respectfully

J. Morrow

T Worthington

10th of June 1812

[To Eastis]

June 11, 1812

No. 253.

Urbanna 11th June 1812

Sir,

The fourth Regt. did not arrive untill yesterday, the whole Army Marched a mile from the Encampment to meet them. As the Regt passed the Army, the honors of a salute were paid and the whole marched in a body to the Encampment. The 4th Regt. at the head of the Column of Infantry, preceded by the Cavalry. A triumphal Arch had previously been erected near the Encampment with the American Eagle displayed on the Key stone of the Arch -- and on one side inscribed in Capitals Tipacano OO on the other side Glory -- when the Cavalry approached the Arch they opened, and the 4th Regt. passed under it -- all the other Troops passed on the outside-- hoping soon to be entitled to similar honor. You doubtless will remember, that you desired me what at Washington, to appoint Doctr. Abraham Edwards, to do the duty of Surgeon of the 4th Regt -- if no appointment should have been made on their arrival. They had no Surgeon, and I have made the appointment, to continue untill the pleasure of the President and Senate is Known -- If the Doctor obtains this appointment, he will resign his Captaincy, he is an excellent man, and will at present, superintend the medical Department of this Army. I have likewise, at the particular request of Lieutt. Coll. Miller of the 4th U.S. regt -- directed an Ensign Phillips of this States appointed in the additional Army of twenty-five thousand, to join the 4th Regt. and do duty untill further Orders. Coll. Miller represented the Regt. as having no Ensign, and a deficiency of Subalterns of other Grades. He is a very ambitious young man and very desirous of being in a situation to become acquainted with service. Whatever you direct on the subject shall be immediately done. I am under the necessity of

NIXON

waiting a day or two longer than I intended on account of the Fourth Regt. They are a fine body of men but worn down with fatigue. Seven hundred men, under the Command of Coll. McArthur, are now advanced, to open and repair the Road. The Guns &c received at Newport were of so bad a quality, that I have been under the necessity of having with the Army a travelling Forge. I have made a detachment from the Army, of Artificers and appointed a Captain Tharp -- who was in that service under Genl. Knox -- during the Revolutionary War, -- to superintend them. -- every day we halt, more than fifty stand of arms are repaired -- without this the arms would have been unfit for use. Every thing relating to this Corps is in the most perfect order. I have made no stipulation with him respecting his pay his services in mounting the Cannon at Detroit, will be of great consequence. The men attached to him, I have promised 16¢ a month including their pay. Lieutenant Partridge, the Engineer, informed me that was the usual allowance. I have organized a Company of twenty four mounted spies -- they are perfectly acquainted with the Country, find their own horses, rifles &c -- indeed every thing -- and they could not be engaged under one dollars and fifty cents per day. I have only engaged them, untill we arrive at Detroit. If we should cross the River they will be usefull. They are the best men in the Country for the purpose. Many of them speak the Indian languages, are acquainted with their Customs, and can dress and appear like Indians.

Governor Meigs, has ordered two companies of Militia to lower Sandusky for the protection of the frontier of that part of this State. The security of the U.S. Factory, and the preservation of that Communication. They will assist likewise in opening and making the road from that place, to the foot of the Rapids -- which has been ordered by an Act of Congress -- the Commissioners appointed by the President -- on

my application have gone to lay it out.

I regret that the proceedings of the Indian Councils cannot at the present moment, be transcribed and forwarded. They were perfectly satisfactory -- one of the old Chiefs observed, that he thanked the Great Spirit, that I had asked them for the Road -- that they granted the request, with the most perfect freedom, and hoped if we met with any Enemies, we should be victorious over them.

I am now a little indisposed, having a slight fever and some colic -- but I am under the operation of medicine, under hope tomorrow to be well. The army shall not however, be detained one moment on my account. I hoped~~d~~ I should not have required a seasoning.

When Hughes' Company joins and about 150 Volunteers now on their march this army will amount to about 2000, non commissioned officers and privates -- a particular return shall be made in a few days.

I am sir, very respectfully Your most obt. Servt.

W Hull

Hon. Wm. Gustis

Departt of War.

12th June. The army is now paraded for exercise, & in my right time[?] I only wish you was here to get them -- Their appearance & discipline does honor to our Country-- unwell as I am I shall mount my horse & go on the field.

June 11, 1812

No. 257.

Urbana June 11th. 1812.

Sir,

Immediately after I had the pleasure of seeing you yesterday I had an interview with Governor Meigs on the subject of the rank of the commanding officers of the three Volunteer Regimts of the State of Ohio.

His Excellency has been pleased to communicate to me the following as the Grounds, which made it his duty to grant them Commissns. as Colonels.

The Constitution Article 5th. Section 3d. provides that Colonels shall be elected by the Majors, Captns. and Subalterns of the Regiment.

By the ____ Section of the act for disciplining the Militia passed 1809, when two Battalions Volunteer they shall elect their Colonel.

By the 2d. Sectn. of the act to amend the Militia Act passed January 30th. 1811, the Militia of this state, shall be officered as follows, To each Regiment one Lieut Colo Commandant.

By the 15th. Section, the fourth Section and fifth article part of the Third Section, and part of the Twenty third Section of the act originally passed are repealed, leaving the Section respecting Volunteer Corps untouched.

The Governor had the authority of organizing this Corps, and I have no other power, than to receive them as appointed by him, and give the officers the rank to which their Commissions entitle them

If this statement should not be Satisfactory to you, it is my opinion you can serve with honor until the pleasure of the President is known.

I am very respectfully your Obt. Servt.

Signed W Hull

Lieut. Colo. Miller.

*June 11, 1812*No. 677.

Head Quarters Lexington June 11th. 1812

Sir

I have this day had the honor to draw a Sett of Bills of Exchange on you for Five thousand Dollars, in favour of Alexander Parker Esqr. payable te days after Sight, on account of Bounties & premiums to recruits, having been authorised so to do by Colo. Alexander Smyth^d Inspector General of the army.

The officers from the State of Ohio experience considerable trouble and expence in carrying specie from here to their places of Rendezvous; there being little or no commercial intercourse between these two states, the bank notes of one will not pass current in the other. The officers have therefore requested me to intimate to you Sir their desire, that I should be authorised to draw on the holders of public monies in the state of Ohio for so much as may hereafter be necessary to defray the expenses of Recruiting for the additional army in that state.

We are still without arms & should Governor Harrison call upon me for a reinforcement should be in a very unpleasant situation. Arms are moreover particularly necessary, to discipline the troops, mount guards, & keep up that routine of duty & Subordination which is indispensibly necessary for the good of the Service

I have the honor to be with Sentiments of high regard Your Obt. Sert.

J. Winchester B. Genl

U. States Army --

Honbl. Wm. Eustis

Secretary at War

*June 12, 1812*No. 258.

Urbana June 12th. 1812

Sir,

Governor Meigs of the state of Ohio, has been pleased to Commission three full Colonels to command the three Volunteer Regiments raised in said state, which in my opinion is contrary to the Laws of the Union, and as it interferes materially with my Rank as an officer of the line, and feeling myself aggrieved; I made application to Brigadier General Hull for redress, a copy of whose answer I have the honor to enclose with the Comments of Governor Meigs on the same, and his reasons for so commissioning them. I am extremely sorry that any thing of the kind should occur at this time, but as it is, I feel myself Compelled through you respectfully to solicit redress, by your decision or that of the President of the U. States. it is sir a question of rank which I consider of great importance to an officer especially in time of impending War, and in my opinion the officer who will tamely submit to relinquish his own Just title to rank, will never assert the rights or avenge the wrongs of his Country with your decision Sir, or that of His Excellency. the President of the U.S. I shall be perfectly satisfied.

I have the honor to be Sir, with the highest respect your most obedt. Servt.

James Miller Lt Col 5th Infy

Honorable Wm. Eustis Esqr.

Secretary of War.

*June 13, 1812*No. 256.

Urbanna 13th June 1812

Sir

Lieutt. Coll. Miller of the 4th. U.S. Regiment has stated to me, reasons, and produced documents for the support of them, satisfactory for not arriving at Dayton, with the 4th. U.S. Regt. at the time I had reason to expect. He appears to be very much dissatisfied with the rank which Governor Meigs has given the officers, commanding the three Regiments of Volunteers of this State -- Inclosed is a copy of a letter ~~to~~ addressed to him on the subject -- The question seems to be whether these officers are Commissioned according to law. I receive this army as organized by the constituted authorities, and can only give the officers command, according to their Commissions in Conformity to the Military regulations. He feels himself aggrieved, and wishes your decision or that of the President on the Subject. I am sure I have no authority to interfere and it is not for me to determine whether the President has or not.

I am very respectfully Your most obt. Servt.

Wm Hull

Hon. Wm. Eustis

*June 14, 1812*No. 265.

Saint Louis June 14th 1812

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th of March, also that of the 13th of April. It was with pleasure I discover'd in the letter a full approbation of those measures which I had adopted, for the protection of our frontier -- not merely because it shielded me against that deep responsibility under which I adopted those measures (being unauthorized by any instructions) but because I feel assured that the company of Rangers raised for 3 months will speedily be paid, according to the act of Jany the 2d. 1812 for those services, which have so far saved our frontier from desolation: Upon the receipt of your letter of the 28th. of March, I sent the commission of Capt. Boone to him, with instructions, a copy of which I herewith enclose you. He wrote me that none of his company would engage again unless they first return'd home -- on the 3d Inst. most of their terms of service expired, a part was discharged on that day, and the remainder at a subsequent day -- both before and since the return of Capt. Boone I have my self, been engaged in raising men, I believe upwards of 30 have join'd . . . Capt. Boone, his 1st & 2d Leutts. are now recruiting, their success I have not learnt. I have order'd the rendezvous of the company on the 18th Inst. at Saint Charles. In order that the frontier should not be exposed, "in the interval, between the discharge of the former Rangers, and the marching of the new company, I sent out a company commanded by Capt. Callaway, mounted and well equipt to serve for 15 days from the 3d Inst. to perform the same kind of service the rangers had done. I trust therefore, they will be paid in like manner: this company met at St. Charles on the 3d Inst. I attended and at 6 oclock A.M. on the fourth it march'd for the frontier: I immediately set out for St. Louis,

& on my way met an express, with a letter from Lieut. Campbell, of the 2d. Inst. informing me of two parties of Indians not far above Fort Mason. I instantly return'd, and sent additional instructions, to Capt. Callaway and made some other arrangements; I have since understood, that Callaway arrived at Fort Mason, and the Indians had not, then reach'd the frontier -- a small party of spies was sent to discover their situation -- and number -- Callaway is order'd to attack if his force is sufficient, if not to report to me that aid may be sent. In April last two men detach'd as spies, from the Rangers, met two Winebagoes above Fort Mason, the Indians were attack'd and both killed, without [illeg.] of the Rangers receiving any injury.

These spies were sent up the Mississippi in consequence of my having heard of a large party of Winebagoes forming on Rick river to attack the frontier of St. Charles District. I have since heard that the Party actually did set out, no doubt is entertain'd, but that those two Indians, were spies in advance, together with some others whose trails were seen. It is the opinion of those lately from the upper Mississippi that the Killing of those two, and the discoveries made by the others, of the state of things on the frontier, changed the direction of the main party -- Thus far I have been able to save our frontier, this spring, but those preparations which have effected this desirable object, required much perseverance, and indeed personal exertion: you were informed by my letter of the 7th of March that I should set out the next day with a view to erect a Fortification as near the line between us and the Sax and Foxes, as the situation of the Country, would allow. . . accordingly I left this place on the 20th with about fourteen men, who voluntarily follow'd me. I went up the frontier, where I found Capt Boone's company, and Lieut. Campbell's detachment of regulars sent up by

Col. Bissel, at my instance. I immediately moved ~~thence~~ those several parties together, to a point on the Mississippi, about 22 miles above this place by land; believing it doubtful whether there was any suitable place for a Fort, between that place, and the Indian line; The party was halted, and suitable men sent up to examine the country; they reported that no good situation presented itself. I immediately march'd the party down~~to~~ to the place two miles below; where Fort Mason now stands, which had attracted my attention much on my way up, as a fine military position not~~merely~~ as a convenient scite, but as a commanding point in relation to the defence of our frontier: -- after having so far advanced the erection of the Fort, as to place it in a tolerable state of defence, I return'd to St. Louis on the 17th day, from the time of my departure. Fort Mason is now said to be more defensible than Fort Madison, and is of much importance in giving effect to the company of Rangers and in other respects affords many facilities in defending the frontier. It is now commanded by Lieut. Campbell, who has about 20 men. I could wish that the number might be encreased to the extend, at least of his command, and that it should be establish'd as a regular Fort. Should any of the troops, in this country, be sent elsewhere; if it comports with your arrangements, I would recommend that this officer should be retain'd, as he is well calculated to command a frontier Post, and is well qualified to superintend the erecting of such Forts, as may be wanted in this country: I herewith enclose you a copy of a letter from him, which will show the ~~state~~ state of things about the Fort. -- also one from Mr. Forsythe, agent at Florias -- which in my opinion is worthy of much attention. My belief has uniformly been, that Indian hostilities would be carried on, by small parties, untill war was declared against G. Britain in that event I have thought it probable, that Indian movements might assume a different aspect, in the direction at least of this and the Illinois Territory; where

there are certainly not ~~#####~~ men enough to meet a large army, without leaving the settlements destitute: and further, the facilities afforded to a large movement by the extensive navigable rivers, emptying into the Mississippi above us, hold out inducements, to an extensive enterprise against those two Territories, so far removed from Kentucky, the nearest state of strength, you find from Mr. Forsythe's letter, the apparent disposition, and number of the Indians, at and near Florias; that in a few days, 1200 warriors can be collected, those 1200 could transport themselves to this place in a few days by water: a movement of this kind, would readily strike the mind of an intelligent British Trader, and managed as some of them are capable of -- would prove fatal to this country -- I have certainly placed our frontier, in the best situation my means would admit -- but the physical force of this Territory, does not allow of arrangements to march an army out to repel a force of this kind: In such an event, all that can be done, will be to fortify particular points collect the people, and defend them: in my opinion the effective force of this country does not far exceed 2000 men, scattered over an immense surface . . . of those 2000 there are individuals, indeed settlements 700 miles apart, calculating by the routes usually travelled: This number thus situated is not as efficient for the purposes of defence, as 500 would be if settled within reasonable limits. I have not felt myself authorized to call on the Gov. of Kentucky for men, or even to accept the services of those who have offered themselves, and give an assurance of suitable compensation. I have exerted myself to form companies here, prepared and equipped, to march when called on, and have now five well accoutred -- a great proportion of the militia is under requisition, but in this I have little confidence, as they are too dispersed for prompt effort.

I am strongly impressed that Indians are collecting at different

points to be ready in the event of war -- and I do apprehend that some general effort will be made should that be their design, one measure, which has been lately adopted, by the Government, may possibly go far, in preventing its execution to the full extent. I mean the movements towards Detroit; I should have been much gratified, as it respects the welfare of the country, if I had been authorized to adopt such measures, as might in my judgement be deem'd necessary for the defence of the Territory: I well know that the Government will bear me out in every necessary expence -- whether expressly authorized or not: But the troops which were order'd by Gov. Lewis to Fort Madison, not being paid, has induced a belief, that when men are called into service by the Govt. it is not certain they will be paid, unless, he is expressly authorized, so to do -- I offer no remark on this subject, but candidly state the fact: This impression was so prevalent, at the time I commenced raising the 3 months rangers, that I found it impossible to raise the company without pledging myself that they should be paid -- to this company; I consider myself responsible -- in my private fortune, for their compensation -- from the nature of my assurances and many are now pressing for their pay -- indeed many of the men were obliged to incur debts, in bri[n]ging horses, arms &c. for the service, the whole company, officers and men found their own provisions by contract, with a Colol Kibby, also their forage, so that not one man of the company is free from debts arising from the service in which they engaged: These things not only operate to prevent many of the former Rangers, from engaging again but others: I have used every exertion to surmount those difficulties in raising the new company, and hope to succeed:

I send you a# talk of the chief of the Kickapoos, in answer to Gov.

Edwards' demand of those Indians who killed Mr. O'Neale's family in this Territory last winter; no doubt the Gov. will give you a history of this man's conduct in full, which in my opinion is extremely inauspicious as it respects himself and nation. Unfortunately owing to our great distance from the seat of Government, I cannot upon any emergency, receive instructions time enough to authorize and to apply the remedy.

We consider it fortunate if in two months an answer is received, to a letter sent to the Atlantic state, from this country, indeed instances have occur'd of letters being six months on the way, even from the Government to its officers ~~###~~ here, owing to the management of the mail between this and Kentucky. I seldom put a letter in the office here, but seize some private conveyance, to some Kentucky Post office, from thence the mail goes with regularity eastward.

David Barton does not accept his commission as Ensign in the company of Rangers, in his room I beg leave to recommend Archibald McDonald -- the other officers accepted and are now recruiting. I herewith inclose a muster and Pay roll of Capt. Boones company, for the month of April, sign'd by him, and countersign'd by me agreeably to your letter of the 28th of March. The Pay of the officers is left blank by the law of Jany. 2d. it is provided that the officers shall receive, the same pay and subsistance as officers in the line of the army -- those officers have found their own horses provisions and forage, and I should presume, that they ought to be paid as cavalry officers; which by the law for raising the army of six thousand, is more than is allow'd, to infantry officers of equal grade, but you can determine better than I can what they are entitled to -- their accounts for forage, and subsistance, will be made out and forwarded.

Enclosed you will find the deposition of F Rhesum[?], a British subject, relative to his mission to Mr. Dixon, upon the subject, as he believes of Indian affairs: Frequent applications are made to me; by those people, who were plunder'd by the Osage Indians some year ago, and for whom, provision is made by the treaty. I would recommend Genl. Clark as a proper person to settle, those accounts, upon his return.

The Government was inform'd when I was in last, of a settlement having commenced, some years ago, on the Missouri within the Indian line. I must again bring this subject into your view, as one worthy of attention. This settlement is on the finest body of land I believe, in Louisiana, and has, and of course will encrease, no officers, in the Territory is authorized to remove intruders without instructions from the President; 'Tis true, that by the treaty between the U. States and the Sacs and Foxes, The Superintendant of Indian affairs is empower'd, to remove settlers on their land, in case they make complaint to him; under this authority I proceeded against Morehead, and others, last year, in their attempt, to possess themselves of the Spanish Mines -- but as it respects the settlement, at Boone's Licks near the Missouri, no complaint has been made, therefore my power under the treaty does not attach --

If it^{is} is not deem'd advisable by the Government to purchase a tract, including this settlement -- I would recommend, that an order for their removal should take place. I am told that most of the settlers, are respectable, and some wealthy, for this country; some alledge, that they made the settlement, not knowing it, to be within the Indian Limits; of this I know nothing, as it commenced before my appointment, in this country. They have manifested a strong disposition to come under the laws, and regulations of the Territory, but I have

refused to appoint any officer, civil or military, or to organize them in any way, thinking that it might by them be consider'd an implied sanction of their settlement, which certainly is in violation of our treaty with the Indians. I have heard that the Indians were not dissatisfied with their intrusion because the white people work a valuable saline, from which they in their hunting season obtain some supplies of salt, but upon the subject I have not heard one word from the Indians themselves.

Independent of the situation of those settlers, amounting to about one hundred families, I do think that the acquisition of this tract of country would be of much importance, as it respects the future safety of this Territory, if a line could be drawn by treaty from Fort Madison to Fort Osage, or even from the mouth of the Wyaconda, to that of the Grand River, it would include two tracts of country, one on the Missouri and one of the Mississippi, which would admit of more compact settlements, than any other parts of the Territory, and would be sooner settled after the lands are offer'd for sale; a strong compact, settlement on both those rivers, and near the line, would always hold in check the Indians residing on the waters of both, and render safe the settlements below; which will long remain dispersed, owing to the great number of Prairies, which will not be settled, except upon their borders, untill timber'd land becomes difficult to procure.

I must apprise you, of a question, which now exists between the United States, and the Sars & Foxes, under the treaty as it respects the river Jefferson, made one of the boundaries, I have taken much pains to ascertain the river, to which this name properly belongs, but such is the diversity of opinion on this subject, that it is impossible to decide, indded it is urged by some, that it empties into the Mississippi

on the East side. The Indians contend that the two rivers about 15 miles above Fort Mason, is the boundary under the call, for the Jefferson, some say that a stream called now, the Fabion has borne that name by a few it is said that the Wyaconda is the river, so% that it is a question unsettled and difficult### to decide. Should it be stirr'd while the chiefs are at Washington and the President should be disposed to extend our limits by purchase, It would afford a good opportunity of commencing a treaty for further acquisition which might be definitively adjusted after they return'd, I think if the proposition was made by the President, I could afterwards effect the object probably. Mr. Forsythe was here, some time since, who resides at Piorias as a Trader, viewing this as an important point for discovery, I wrote Gov. Edwards, advising him for a while, to authorize him, to employ occasionally, proper persons to ascertain the views of the Indians on rock river Illinois, and the Wabash -- Mr. Forsythe has long resided at Piorias, he is well acquainted with the Indians in that country, is quite an intelligent man, and I have confidence in his integrity. He has been as I understand appointed sub agent, but upon a salary which he assured me, he would not accept, he visited Gov. Edwards, who wrote to me by him, that if I thought it right, I might say to him, that it would be recommended to the Government, to give him 600 dollars ### pr. annum and two rations pr day, at the present moment I deemed his services so essential, that I inform'd Mr Forsythe, that I should recommend the encrease of compensation -- but would not pledge myself further, he observed that under the expectation, of getting that compensation from the joint recommendation of Gov. Edwards and myself, he would enter on the duties of the office. I do trust it# will be allow'd him, at least, for a while, commencing from the date of Gov. Edwards letter, which I have

not at hand to refer^d to.

I shall attend the rendezvous of the Rangers, on the 18th ~~April~~ at St. Charles. upon my return, I shall do myself the honor of communicating to you, the result, In the mean time I offer you my assurances of high consideration, and have the honor to be Sir with respect your Obt Servt.

Benja. Howard

[To Eustis]

*June 14, 1812*No. 397.

Fort Fayette

June 14th. 1812.

Sir —

I have had the honor to receive your letters of the 3rd. & 6th. Inst. The same of the 22nd. ulto. did not reach me untill yesterday. The bond, & certificate of the oath, will be sent in the next mail.

I have this day ship'd the remainder of the Arms that have arriv'd from Harpers ferry, and sixteen hundred & twenty Cartridge Boxes & Belts, & six hundred & Twenty Bayonets belts & scabbards from this deposit at this place; I shall forward the rest of the arms & the remainder of the number of accoutrements directed, as soon as they come to hand.

I have the honor to be your Most obedient servant

H Johnson

[illeg.] & A.D. Qr Master

The Honorable

William Eustis Esqr.

Secretary of War

Washington City.

June 16, 1812

No. 24.

Fort Detroit June 16th. 1812

Sir,

I have the satisfaction to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th. ultimo, and to signify my acceptance of the Appointment of Assistant Deputy Quarter Master; and have the honor to be, with the greatest respect and consideration, Sir, your Ob. St.

Daniel Baker

Lieut 1st. Infy

Hon. William Eustis

Secretary of War

*June 16, 1812*No. 131.

Elvirade

Randolph County

Illinois Territory

June 16. 1812

Sir

Two days ago I received the answer of the Kickapoos to my demand for the murderers of Omuts family consisting of ten persons. It abounds with complaints and recriminations and contains a refusal to deliver up the murderers -- contrary to expectations which they themselves had authorised, by their previous communication to me, and by their conversations with Mr. Forsyth and with Mr Kette my interpreter.

The indians with whom I held the late council have failed to comply with the promises they made me. Large numbers are now collected together at the head of Peoria lake. they have killed a number of cattle belonging to the inhabitants of the village and have exhibited other strong indications of a hostile disposition towards us -- this change in their conduct is attributed to their communications with the Prophets party and to the influence of a party of Miami that have lately joined them.

From the above and other circumstances I am convinced they will commence hostilities as soon as they hear of a declaration of war against England, or as soon as they may be told that such an event will certainly happen And with only about 1700 militia-men in the whole territory dispersed from one end of it to the other, I can see but little prospect of opposing them with success. But nothing in my power to do shall be left undone.

For further particulars I beg leave to refer you to Mr Forsyth's
letter which I have the honor to enclose

I have the honor to be Very respectfully Sir Yr Mo Obedt Servt

Minian Edwards

The Honble

Wm. Eustis

Secretary of War

Washington City

P.S. Govr Howard & myself have sent out a force to oppose three parties
of Indians that have lately been discovered on the Mississippi, one party
below where Omiets[?] family was killed. one on the East and the other
on the west bank of the river above Port Mason[?] on which they are
supposed to have some design

respectfully I am Sir yr Mo Obedt St

M Edwards

The Honble

Wm Eustis

*June 16, 1812*No. 398.

Fort Fayette

June 16th. 1812.

Sir --

I have the honor to inclose to you the bond & certificate requir'd by your letter of the 3rd. Inst. The remainder of the arms have arriv'd from Harpers ferry & been ship'd to Newport. Neither tents nor accoutrements have as yet arriv'd from Philadelphia.

I have the honor to be yr. most obedient Servant

H Johnson

D. & A. D. Qr. Master

The Honorable

William Eustis Esqr.

Secretary of War

Washington City

June 16, 1812.

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No. 633.

Urbanna Ohio June 16th 1812

Sir,

I find on arriving at this place, that the expense of transporting will amount to an immense sum, as we have been ordered to furnish transportation, for all the baggage and for the Contractors provisions -- we have upwards of one hundred and twenty teams now under pay --

I have therefore this day drawn on you for twenty thousand dollars on account of transportation, Camp equipage &c. for the North Western Army -- I should not have drawn again so soon after my draft of the 12th Inst., but when I get on to Detroit I cannot get money sent on to that place -- without I make the arrangement here and wait to take on, as much as possible for fear I run short, you may rest assured that I shall use the utmost economy, but, to go through a wilderness of between two and three hundred miles take considerable supplies and I have ^{but} only to transport them but supply them

I have the honour to be with the highest respect your obt. Servt.

James Taylor

P.D. It is the wish of Genl. Hull and myself that you would be so good as to state whether you wish the amount of Cloathing paid to the Volunteers and the drafts as the Case may be, as soon as they enter service, and how much to each -- We are much importuned on this Subject

J. T

Hon: William Eustis

Secy. of War

City of

Washington

|||||

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June 17, 1812

No. 160.

June 17 1812

Honorable Sir

I have just been informed by Dr. Campbell that my resignation has not yet reached the war office. As I received my commission and notified my acceptance of it through the Governor I thought him the proper channel through which to make my resignation. I therefore wrote to him the 27th of April and directed the letter to Marietta but I believe he has not been at home since being engaged in sending on the troops from this State to Detroit.

As a person ought always to be able to render ^a reason for what he does I shall briefly state the reason of my resignation. A short time after the company had rendezvoused a considerable number of them expressed their disapprobation of my holding my office. This I since believe was occasioned by the officers especially the Captain and his son who expected my place. I therefore in order to restore peace and harmony to the corps conceived it to be my duty to resign. I therefore resign the office of first Lieutenant of the first company of the United States rangers and pray you to accept of my resignation

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my high consideration

James Finley

West Union

Honorable Wm Eustis

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

June 17 1812

No. 542.

Picqua Miami County June 17th 1812

The Honorable secretary at War,

Sir,

After my best respects to you, I take the liberty of Communicating to you, some matters, of importance -- which I hope you will be so good as to give your opinion on, Agreeably to the order of His Excellency the Governor fo Ohio, our Company was Ordered to fort Lorimies to Erect a block house -- and other Necessary buildings for our own defence and a deppsit for Provisions -- That place having been once built on, and ever since settled by other Inhabitants, timber Could not be got "igher than one mile from the spot where we have ^{erected a} compleat Block house and a house for our Contractor -- Since agreeable to orders -- We have built several smal houses, and one block house Near this place -- Not being allowed any kind of tools to do this work -- it followed As a matter of course rhat we had to purchase & Borrow, such tools as was actually necessary to Compleat the buildings -- and also to hire teams for the purpose of halling in the timber the brakage and forage of the teams axes & Augurs &c. have entirely fell on me to pay. altho, the Sum is trifling -- in amount It appears something to an individual At the request of Governor Meigs -- I have taken the liberty to mention this Subject to you. Also, whether they rangers will be allowed for Amunition Midicin &c &c furnished for finishing and Compleating the whole of the buildings the Extra Expence does not Exceed \$150.00 I hope Sir, you will give your Opinion on this subject

Lieutenant McCormack has left our Company on the 28th of May and Accepted the appointment of an Adjutant in the New army & gone with Governor

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Hull to Detroit Therefore I presume the officers on the List to Wit John Hopkins 2d Lieutenant & James Flinn, Ensigne will stand for premotion; & would take the Liberty of mentioning John Knox our first sergent as a Capible man to fill the Ensigncy

Also, the paymaster, is at a loss to Know whether, they officers are allowed the same pay & ~~forage~~ forage of troopers

I am Sir With sentiments of respect your Obt. Humble Servant

Wm Petty Capt

2d Company U S Rangers

NB. No News of any importance the Indians, appear peacible in This quarter Except some few, Which sometimes sally out from New the Prophets town --

*June 17 1812*No. 568.

Vincennes, 17th June 1812 --

Sir

I have been here about ten days after pursuing the company of rangers raised in Kentucky. I forwarded an express after them, and have also brought them on to Vincennes. I have sent on agreeably to your request for all the recruits belonging to the old Regiments in Kentucky and Ohio to be brought on to this place shall order one company more of the rangers from Ohio to this and the Illinois Territory, finding on examination that the frontier of Ohio is very small when compared to these two defenceless Territorys I am fixing the rangers in this, and the Illinois to the best advantage to cover the weaker frontiers and a ballance to scour the country adjacent, and the most exposed to the Indians. We have no sign of Indians through this and the Illinois Territory for some distance up the Mississippi, that country having been recently ranged by the rangers from the Illinois T. This minute I received information from fort Harrison, that the chiefs appear from their Speeches to be friendly disposed towards the United States, and tis sed they are also on the point of starving, on these heads you shall hear more in my next.

I flatter myself Sir that unless a large body comes out, we shall be able to give a good account of ourselves. It is stated here that the prophets party is increasing, it is also stated that his party are not about to raise a crop of corn, and it is quite probable with me they are watching the motion of Genl. Hulls army -- Lieut. Albright at fort Knox, informes me he has been appointed since ye 14th July last by the then commanding officer, to do the duties of that Garrison as Military agent and still continues to do that duty, he wishes Sir to know if he will be

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allowed pay for his Services.

I have the honor to be with high respect your obedt. Servt.

W Russell Colo.

7th Commanding ye District

*June 18, 1812*No. 259.

Camp at Solomon's town, 75 miles from the
foot of the Rapids 18th June 1812

Sir,

The army arrived at this place last evening -- I have opened the road fifteen miles forward, and built a strong Blockhouse. At this blockhouse are advanced eight hundred of the army, under the command of Colo. McArthur. There is another strong blockhouse five miles back. We are now in the Indian Country, one mile^s from a village of Wyandots and Shawanese. Fifteen principal Chiefs from different Villages will join the army this morning and proceed with us. There is every appearance of friendship among all the Indians at present. Hughes detachment I expect will join the army to day -- -- likewise three companies of Volunteers, all in complete uniform. This is all the force I expect. This place is about one hundred and twenty five miles from Cincinnati. The army is in good health and spirits. My order of march is in two columns with strong front and rear guards. The columns flanked by the Riflemen and Cavalry, where the ground will admit. The baggage, provisions &c between the columns. The army has been practised from the two columns to form two lines, either in front, rear, or on either flank -- or to form a square. My order of encampment at night is a square facing outward, with all the baggage in the center in The mounted spies ~~and~~ employed in examining every part of the Country, eight or ten miles in advance and on the flanks. In an army composed of materials like this, some difficulties are naturally to be expected.

The morning we marched from Urbanna papers were found on the trees, warning me not to march the army untill they were paid. I called the principal officers together, and stated what had taken place. It seems the officers had promised the men, an advance for the years clothing, which

was stated at forty or fifty dollars a man. They had only received sixteen. I informed the Officers the army would march in any event. When the Assembly beat one company only refused to obey the order. A detachment of the 4th Regt. was immediately marched towards the company and on its appearance, the company immediately obeyed the order. Three of the principal mutineers were immediately confined, and the next day I ordered a General Court martial, which sentenced them to have one half of their ~~heads~~ heads shaved, their hands tied behind their backs, marched round the lines with a label "Tory" between their shoulders, and drummed out of the Army. After this sentence was published the prisoners appeared remarkably penitent and considered the punishment worse than death itself. Their officers and friends pledged themselves to me for their future good conduct and under all circumstances I considered it expedient to pardon them. Every thing now is perfectly quiet, and the army are in high spirits and satisfaction.

Mr Piatt & Co.² contract will end the 1st of July and not having received any information from Augustus Porter Esq the Contractor, I have authorized Piatt & Co. to provide ten days provision, more than to the last of June. We shall probably arrived at the foot of the Rapids by the 1st of July. Circumstances however may take place to prevent it, and I consider it my duty to make such provision as to render a disappointment almost impossible. For this purpose I was obliged to draw a bill on you for one thousand dollars of this date.

I am respectfully your most Obt. servt.

W Hull

Hon

William Eustis

*June 19, 1812*No. 169.

Capitol: June 19th 1812

Sir,

We recommend the Honl. Jeremiah Morrow & Governor Meigs of Ohio as person well qualified to act as agents on the part of the U. States at the Council of Indians to be called in the western country.

John Rhea

Felix Grundy

H. Clay

Rh. M. Johnson

Jos. Desha

John Smilie

John Sevier

[last name illeg.]

see page 169

attempted to go there. He then urged verry strongly that he was under a necessity of going to visit the Wyandots, Chippeways, and Ottaways, to have a general understanding for a general peace. I told him he would be likely to arrive at the ~~##4444~~ Rappids about the same time that you would arrive there with your army; and you would give him further information. As I had not received information that the Declaration of War had yet taken place, I did not think it prudent to stop him by force. One of his party of Warriors became sick and determined to return hom immediately after our conference of today: and I think it is quite possible that others of the party will be taken with the same kind of sickness.

From such information as I obtain from other chiefs, compared with his own observations; it appears, that one of the objects of Tecumseh's present journey, is, to make an arrangement with the Chippeway Tribe of Indians to come and join him on the Wabash, to increase his strength.

The Chippeways have a long time wished to come, but the Tribes in this part of the country would not consent to it. He now appears to be determined to make a push to have the Chippeways come without the consent of the other Tribes.

The Indians have began to assemble here to meet their chiefs, who have been sent by them to apprehend the murderers and horse-thieves: as I mentioned to you, that I had given them one moon to make the necessary restitution to the U.S. for the murders and thefts committed on our people. There are a number of friendly Indians who talk of going from here to visit you

With high esteem I have the honor to be your Exys huml. Servant

(Signed) B F Stickney I A

Genl. Hull

June 23, 1812

No. 26.

Fort Detroit June 22nd 1812

Sir

Your letter of the 3rd. instant I have received, and now enclose
a Bond and Certificate conformably to the provisions of the acts
establishing a Quarter Master's Department --

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, Sir, Your
Ob. Servt.

David Baker

Captain 1st. Infy

Hon. William Eustis

Secretary of War

*June 23, 1812*No. 231 133.

Elvirado

Randolph County

Illinois Territory

June 23. 1812

Sir

On Saturday last I received official notice from Colo Russel that he had arrived at Vincennes for the purpose of taking measures for defending the frontier in consequence of which I have issued orders for discharging the force I have had in service, and which I had previously ordered out from the necessity of the case till the measures contemplated by the Govt. could be got into operation --

The Colo having stated that he was directed to confer with me, I have given him the best and most candid view which I was able to take of our situation & have promised all the aid and cooperation in my power. My powers as Governor of the territory have however expired.

The Prophet and his emissaries have been latterly very active in endeavouring to stir up all the indians between Lake Michagan & the Mississippi. Several general councils have been held, the Chippewas and Sioux have been applied to.

Dixon the British trader has returned with a considerable number of Indians to Green bay --

I have reason to believe that the point of communication between the British and the Indians from whom we have every thing to apprehend, will be on the St Marys between Lakes Huron and Superior -- this together with the movement of the army in Michagan will add to the inducements I now think strong enough, to the Prophet to unite his party with the Illinois indians -- and if so the whole weight of the hostile confederacy will be thrown on this territory --

How such a ⁷⁰⁰~~number~~ can remain embodied with the Prophet I know not, the difficulty of procuring provisions must be very great, much more so than on the Illinois -- for at the latter place, the Lake abounds with fish on which the Indians can and do live -- and if they should find it necessary to take the cattle that belong to the People of Peoria there are enough to last them a long time.

Hitherto I have apprehended most danger from mere predatory parties -- and knowing the effects which the movement of troops have on the Indians I have kept my small force constantly in motion ranging generally from the Mississippi to the Kaskaskia and sometimes between the Kaskia & the Wabash -- these measures have been so far very successful -- and I think in consequence of them small parties will be deterred from coming in -- and as it can hardly be expected such prodigious large numbers of Indians can remain much longer assembled together without attempting something -- ~~a~~ general attack to rendered most probable than I have heretofore believed it --

By a communication I recd since I forwarded Forsyths letter, it appears that the number of Indians embodied near Peoria is not less than 700 -- and with the boats now in the river and the canoes in their possn. they could transport themselves to Kaskas. in ~~four~~ four or 5 days.

I have the honor to be Very respectfully Sir Yr Mo Obat St

Ninian Edwards

[To Eustis]

*June 23, 1812*No. 538.

Fort Wayne 23d June 1812

Sir,

The Assistant Military Agents business hashitherto been done by the Commanding Officer. Should you deem me deserving of that employ at this post, I shall discharge the duty with fidelity.

I am very respectfully Sir, Your Mo. Obt. Servt.

P H Ostrander Lieut

1st. Regt. U.S. Infy

Wm Eystis Secty

at War

Washington City

*June 24, 1812*No. 260.

Camp Necessity near Blanchards

Creek June 24th. 1812

Sir

The heavy and incessant Rains which have fallen since the army marched from Urbanna have inundated the Country, and rendered it impossible to make that expedition which the state of things may require and my own wishes strongly impell. I have opened to road about thirteen miles in advance, and established a Blockhouse. That station is about forty miles from the foot of the Rapids. Five hundred men, are at the station. The army is now preparing to march, and will arrive at the foot of the Rapias, by the 1st day of July unless prevented by a continuation of the rains. There are now established on this road, five strong block houses garrisoned principally by the Invalids of the Army. I have stated to you, in my former letters, the importance of this communication. Considering the fatigue to which the army has been subjected -- both officers and soldiers are in good health, and continue to be animated by a laudable spirit.

General Brock, the Governor of upper Canada, arrived at Malden, on the 14th. inst. with one hundred British Troops -- on the 17th he sailed for Fort Erie, in the Queen Charlotte, and it is said they will return with a reinforcement immediately. Large numbers of Indians from all the Northern Nations, are collecting at Amhers[t]burg and at Brown'stown, opposite the British fort -- and likewise on the river huron of Lake Erie -- three miles below Browns Town -- They now have a constant communication with the British Garrison, and are supplied with provisions and other things, necessary for them. In the event of hostilities I feel a Confidence that the force under my Command, will be superior to

June 24, 1812

1141

No. 636.

Camp Necessity

June 24th 1812

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 10th inst.

The necessary instructions is this day given relative to the Powder. I had requested Messrs J. & D. Maccoun to delay making it after I was informed by Genl Hull that he had make a mistake in naming Three Tons of Powder instead of three thousand pounds, but I have no doubt but the full quantity will be wanted, and I can assure you that the last Powder this Company furnished is of the first quality.

Permit me sir to express my warmest acknowledgments for the disposition manifested by the President, your self & the Pay Master of the army to serve me — I trust I shall not be unmindful in discharging with the most Prompt fidelity and punctuality the duties assigned to me. I assure you that nothing but my wish to serve my beloved country and to support the measures they have recommended would ~~##~~ have induced me to leave the interior and domestic happiness, but I am of opinion that every individual, who can do it, who has ranged himself on the republican side and advocated the measures now pursuing ought to support those by acts as well as professions.

In my absence my duties both as agent will be conducted by Mr James T. Eubank a fine young man a Nephew whom I have raised and for whose transactions in every respect I shall hold myself accountable to the proper department.

We shall march I presume to day # we are wating for our supply of corn & flour to come up and indeed for the road cutters to progress. The land is becoming very leavele and some who [illeg.] to be swampy and from the immense quantity of rain it is difficult to get on with one Waggons, but we

are all in fine spirits and I trust if we meet any difficulty in getting on to Detroit we shall acquit our selves to the satisfaction of our government & credit to our selves.

In case we have any thing to do the Commander in chief has been pleased to signify his wish that I should attach my self to his person.

I have the honor to be with great respect Your obed servt.

James Taylor

The Hon. Wm. Eustis

Secy of War

Washington City

*June 24, 1812*No. 680.

[June 24, 1812, Hon. T. Worthington relating to the Indian Conference at Piqua town wants interpreters, etc/]

Dr Sir

On examination of the enclosed paper I find you intend that property taken and the persons who have committed murders since the Battle of Tippecanoe shall be demanded of the Indians by the Commissioners. It is somewhat doubtful with me whether it would be either just or good policy under all the circumstances to make this demand. Since the Battle of Tippecanoe we have been in some measure in a state of war with the Indians. Some of these people have been killed (2 near Greenville in Ohio) and as the object at present is to bring about a state of peace it may to make the demand you mention defeat it. At all events if the demand is made a compliance with it must be enforced and you must prepare for such an event. I sent you a paper a few days since which contained several Indian speeches one by Tecumsee, in which he states he had adhered to the agreement made with Govr Harrison but that the patawatamies had not. I was desirous of preserving this paper for if the demand you suggest is made this assertion of Tecumsee might be taken as evidence and the demand made of that Nation direct. If however the demand is made and the Indians surrender persons whom they may state as the murderers on what evidence will you proceed against them in a court of justice?

In regard to the distribution of the presents, you will find it necessary to give the commissioners entire discretion. These may be not to many Indians as you expect it the meeting or the circumstances may make it proper to give to only a part of those Indians who meet & in either case it may be unnecessary to distribute all the goods sent. Think it would be proper

[Handwritten signature]

to send on to Johnson a copy of the land laws* and a map with the different cessions of land laid down on it for the use of the commissioners Both might be returned as soon as the meeting was over. I think it would be well to let the Indians at the meeting state the causes of dissatisfaction freely & fully. These might be sent to you and be found useful in the conferences you might have with the deputation who might come on. I have thought of nothing else which is not contained in the paper I return to you will you if you ever find it do me the favour to send ~~###~~ on the newspaper I sent you containing the speeches made at Mississinnoway.

Should any thing else occur to me before I leave this I will state it to you

I think I shall leave this on the 5th of July if not sooner. Would it not be well after you have determined Gov Meigs is to act to give him as early notice as your convenience will permit

I am very respectfully

T Worthington

June 24th 1812

*This book contains all the Indian Treaties and will aid the commissioners much in the discussions &c

[To Eustis]

*June 25, 1812*No. 495.

Lexington June 25th 1812

Sir

Your goodness in duly honoring my last Draft for \$20,000 in favor of Simon Gratz & Co. merits my warmest acknowledgments, & with sincerity and gratitude I embrace this opportunity of returning you my thanks --


When I solicited you to honor that Draft, it was under the strongest impressions that I should not have occasion to ask for additional advances: but the Deposit of three months (which I am informed has been completed) has Compelled my Agents to draw on me for much larger sums than I had expected. Under this pressure I am constrained to ask for a check on the Cashier of the Bank of Kentucky for \$10,000 -- and permission to draw on you for \$15,000 -- Indeed less than these sums will not enable me to meet the acceptances I am now under -- I make this application to you Sir, with reluctance but with the strongest conviction that forms of Office will not induce you to withhold such advances as in your Judgment I am entitled to -- In this application I have been carefull not ask for a dollar that is not honestly my due -- The deposit must amount to more than \$20,000, and by your letter of 25th March last, you said there would be \$10,000 due on the present Contract-- I shall be disappointed should the balance not be much larger. Permit me then Sir, to anticipate a favorable result to this my last application -- which shall be recollected with satisfaction, and acknowledged with gratitude.

I have the honor to be Sir with respect & regard your ob^d & Huml Set.

James Morrison.

P.S. Should you prefer sending a Draft on the Bank of Kentucky for the amt. now asked say \$25,000 I shall be satisfied.

The Honl./ Wm. Eustis/ Secy of War



June 26, 1812

No. 12.

Fort Massac

June 26. 1812

Sir,

I do myself the honor of acknowledging your favor of the 15 Ultimo and the Drafts[?] agreeably thereto have been received

Permit me to address you in behalf of injured Citizen -- A Gentleman by the name of Frederic Graiter bought at a Sheriffs sale the right of improvement to a lot of ground in the vicinity of this post -- for which I saw the Sheriff's receipt It was at the time of sale, under a lease and I am informed cultivated by a Serjeant then attached to Captain D. Bissell's Company (now a Lt. Colo.) and that the Captain himself bid for the lot -- however the field ultimately fell to Mr. Graiter, who was promised by the Capt. that at the expiration of the lease under which it then lay, that it should be given up to him -- but contrary to that stipulation Mr. Graiter has ever since been kept out of the possession by the different Commanding Officers of this place.

I have conversed with the Sheriff and a number of Citizens respecting the circumstances and being convinced of the justness of of the claim -- I have on my own responsibility taken the liberty of offering to put him in possession and of relinquishing all claim of the Public's to the right of improvement of said field untill such time as the land may be sold by the United States --

I have the honor to be Sir respectfully your obt. ~~servt.~~ & huml. Servt.

E. Allen

Lt. U. S. Arty

Honbl. William Eustis

Secy of War

*June 26, 1812*No. 261.

Camp at Fort Findlay, on Blanchards
fork, 35 miles from the foot of the Rapids
of the Miami, June 26th 1812.

Sir,

I have this moment recieved your letter of the 18th of June inst. Since the army marched from Urbanna, we have had constant and heavy rains. This has rendered the progress of the army slow -- since the junction of the whole force, not a moment has been, or shall be lost in advancing to our Post. The road is already opened ten miles in advance. From Urbanna to this place, strong Blockhouses are erected, within twenty miles of each other, to preserve the communication in the event of war. I have placed in them small Garrisons, and left the few sick and invalids, with their arms, medical aid, and all necessary comforts. I suggest to you, whether it would not be expedient to relieve the troops of this army, stationed in the Blockhouses, by the militia of Ohio. In the event of war it will be necessary to keep up this communication. I have with me a considerable number of friendly chiefs and head men of the different nations. The Indians, as we progress, appear to be friendly. I hope in three days to be at the foot of the Rapids. The army is in high spirits, and animated by a laudable zeal. There exists a perfect harmony. McArthurs Blockhouse stands on the Scioto, and the River is navigable for noats to that station. From that station to Fort Findlay the distance is about twenty seven miles, and from this place there is a boat navigation, by the Miami to Detroit. It is my intention to build another Blockhouse on the carrying river, about half the distance



between this and the Foot of the Rapids. The friendly Indians are now making canoes, and will carry a part of the baggage of the army, from this to the foot of the Rapids.

Inclosed is the most correct return that can be made of the army, under present circumstances

I am respectfully your mo. obt.

W Hull

Hon

William Eustis

*June 26, 1812*No. 439.

Chillicothe June 26th 1812

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th Instant by Mail which came to hand on the 24th. and agreeably to your request have forwarded the package sent to my care for Brigadier General Hull. An express was dispatched with it who would probably reach the Army on the next day.

From A letter I received from General Worthington, I am led to believe other communications of a similar nature may pass through my hands which should it be the case you may rely on every attention being paid to the dispatch of them. Let me however suggest to you a difficulty that may occur: The country through which an express will have to pass after reaching the Indian boundary is a wilderness and probably there may be some difficulty in procuring a person in whom confidence can be placed to pass through the Indian country. Captain Manary, with his company of Rangers, (the principle part of whom is well mounted) is stationed about 85 Miles west of this place, and near the Boundary. Would it not be advisable, ~~###~~ in case you find it necessary to forward other communications to the Army, to have them sent express to him and instruct him, to ~~#~~ forward them on the rout to the army? I can conveniently dispatch a Messenger from this place, who will arrive at Manarys Black-house between 24 & 36 hours after his departure from our Post office, and shall make it a point to have one in readiness every nail-day should it be necessary. Any service in my power that I can render to our Government or Country will be cheerfully performed.

I am very respectfully Your Obedient Humble Servent

David Kinhead

William Eustis Esquire

Secretary of War

June 28, 1812

1143

No. 637.

Newport June 28th. 1812

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that in addition to what Genl. Taylor informed you he had purchased I have purchased 18380 lbs. Lead more at Eight dollars pr. 100 weight

I have the honor to be with respect your mo. obt. Humble Servt.

James T. Eubank for & in the absence of

Jas. Taylor

The Honorable Wm. Eustis

Secy War Washington

City

*June 29, 1812*No. 134.

Elvirado

Randolph County

Illinois Territory

June 29. 1812

Sir

Since my letter of the 23 Inst I have received information which I am sure can be relied on that the plan which the British now mean to adopt for introducing their goods into the indian country is to send them from their deposit on the Straits of St Marys between Lakes Huron & Superior by indians in canoes to Green Bay where an agent will remain to receive them. The indians who went on with Dixon are to be employed in this service, and it is supposed the non importation will not be enforced against them if they should not ever happen to pass undiscovered. If however this plan fails, the same indians are to be employed in carrying the goods by land to some point on Lake Michigan.

A few days past I recd a communication from Govr Harrison stating that he had recd information that 20 Pottowottamies had left their village to commit depredations "on the Kaskaskia road" -- I know not what road is meant but from the manner in which Gov H. received the information I think it very probable that I shall hear of mischief being done somewhere in a few days.

I have the honor to be very respectfully Sir Yr Mo^{ts} Obedt St

Ninian Edwards

[To Eustis]

June 30, 1812

No. 11.

Secretary's Office

Detroit June 30th. 1812

Hon. William Eustis

Secretary at War

Sir,

It is not in my power to inform you any thing more respecting the hostile intention of the Indians than I did in my last, except I frequently hear of their committing murder on the other frontiers, they all appear friendly which call upon me and for two or three weeks have held a council with them almost every day, yesterday Ni-qui-gan Nephew to the Bastard arrived, he lives within forty or fifty miles of Michilimackinac and sent by Uncle to inform me his people was all peaceable and was determined to remain so, and attend to the advice they received from their Great Father the President, he also observ'd those that visted their great Father was very much gratified to receive friendly treatment and good advice. It is reported that a large number of Indians are collected at Malden, I have no doubt but that they receive Arms Ammunition &c. from the British who are making every preparation for War

I hear Gov. Hull is within eighty miles of this place having a Road to cut retards his March, when I last heard from him he and Army in good health and spirits.

With respect Your Obt. Servt.

Reuben Attwater

June 30, 1812

No. 27.

Lancaster Garrara Ky 30th June 1812

Honbl William Eustis,

Sir,

I have had the honour to receive Your Official Communication^s of the 5th. Instant notifying me of the Appointmt of Deputy Commissary of the United States.

In conformity to the requisition therein made, I avail myself of the Return of Mail to announce to your Department my Acceptance of the said Appointment.

I have executed the requisite Bond with what I deem ample Security, which is enclosed and herewith transmitted -- together with the Certificate of the Honl. John Boyle --

I am Sir Respectfully Yr. No. Obt. Hnl. Sert.

Thomas Buford

Honl. W. Eustis



*June 30, 1812*No. 402.

[Broadside]

FORT FAYETTE

June 30, 1812

I will receive proposals, in writing, the 3d of July next, for the following articles, at the lowest prices and in the shortest time they can be delivered at this place by those who may be disposed to contract to furnish them, viz:

Five thousand cartridge boxes and belts,
Five thousand bayonet belts and scabbards.
Five thousand gun slings,
Five thousand ball screws,
Five thousand screw drivers,
Five thousand brushes and picks,
Five thousand painted knapsacks,
Five thousand tin canteens,
Eight hundred and thirty-four common tents,
Eight hundred and thirty-four setts common tent poles,
Eight hundred and thirty-four sheet iron camp kettles,
Sixteen hundred and sixty-six gallon tin pans,
Twelve hundred falling axes,
Two hundred ax slings,
Two hundred spades,
And five hundred tomahawks.

Proposals may be put in for any part, or the whole of the foregoing parcels. Security will be required for the performance of contracts.

By order of the secretary of War,

H. Johnson,

Lieut. and Assistant Deputy Quarter Master.

June 30, 1812

1170

No. 651.

Chicago Fort Dearborn June 30th. 1812

Honourable Sir

Not long since I communicated to you the sad satastrophe of the murder of the Interpreter at this Post by the Sutler John Kinzie. I wrote within twenty-four hours after the event, and was uncollected at the time, besides being very much hurried by the sudden departure of the carrier of my letters ; -- in consequence of which I embrace the present opportunity (by the way of Michilimackinac, for perhaps it would be unsafe to trust this communication in the hands of the Express by the way of Fort Wayne;) of making a few additional observations upon the subject. The slight quarrel which led to the assassination took place in my presence. It was preceeded by some harsh expressions from Lt. Helm against the U.S. Factor and Factory, who concluded by saying he would give a very handsome treat if the Factory woul be done away? If his assertions did not really appear like something like a bribe, they evidently shewed that deep animostiy against this Institution which he has upon many occasions discovered. And John Kinzie, his father-in-law, has ever, I am very dredibly informed, been endeavouring to undermine this Trading-house. Lt. Helm's rash remarks led to the quarrel, which was thought slight at the time, in which, as I stated in my other Communications, the unfortunate Interpreter defended the pure motives and just dealings of the Institution. I need not trouble you, Sir, with the minutia of this affair; suffice it to say that it was a perfect assassination and can be proven to be such. The murderer was let out of the Garrison as I have before stated, by Lt. Helm, and has since been lurking about the place, whether to murder the witnesses of which I am one, (and there are but two respectable ones,) or whether to see if he can return I know not.



But this much appears but too plain, the Officers seem not to wish to apprehend him, or at least the measures taken are not calculated to prove effectual. It is so clear that even the non-commissioned officers & privates express this opinion. The murderer is the sutler (together with his brother and partner Thomas Forsyth who trades at the Peoitas) and the father-in-law to the Lieutenant. It cannot but be remarked that this partiality shewn to the murderer forms an additional testimony that the Officers are involved with the Sutler. It is painful, Sir, to implicate my fellow Officers, but duty, truth, the love of justice, and every thing of the kind impels me to this very unpleasant task. And I have farther to observe, that the Officers are acting a most despotic part at present. Should a disclosure take place whilst I am here, truly Sir my person might be in imminent danger; and from these considerations, I have to beg, honourable Sir, that my name may be concealed whilst I am here, and particularly that I may be allowed either to repair to some other Post as soon as possible, or be furloughed by the first Express, and shall ever be ready, when my person is secure, to substantiate what I have stated.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect Your very obdt.
humble Servt.

J. V. Van Voorhis

S. Mate

Hon: Wm. Eustis

Secy. at War --

P.S. The Commanding Officer still retains Mr. Kinzie as Sutler, though other persons, who are American citizens, have offered, I am told, to supply the Troops at a much more reasonable rate.

Lt. Helm has been seen carrying wine &c. towards the woods -- in all

probability to the murderer. The centinal saw him let the murderer out of the Garrison at about 10 Oclock at night, walk to the river's side with him, and shake him by the hand --



